

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 151230Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

USAFE

EUCOM

USDOCSOUTH

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNATO BRUSSELS 1697

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: FIRST DIPLOMATIC REACTIONS IN ATHENS

MILITARY COMMANDS FOR POLAD

1. DURING FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS, OF COURSE, CYPRUS. DESPITE ABSENCE OF HARD INFORMATION, OPINION WAS UNANIMOUS THAT COUP AND DEATH OF MAKARIOS COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING AND SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

2. VLACHOS, JUST RETIRED SECYGEN OF MFA COMMENTED THAT ANEW DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WOULD BETTER UNDERSTAND REASONS BEHIND HIS RESIGNATION AND ADDED THAT CURRENT GOG HAD NOW "SUNK TO THE BOTTOM". HE WAS FEARFUL OF TURKISH REACTION.

3. GERMAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ONCE FACTS BECAME KNOWN NATO COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN ATHENS COULD SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE TO GOG WITH IMPLICATION THAT ALL SHOULD
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MAKE PLAIN THAT THEY DEPLORED ANY SUCH RESORT TO VIOLENCE

LEADING TO OVERTHROW OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. BRITISH DCM AGREED BUT POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH HAD SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN SINCE THEY WERE PARTIES TO LONDON-ZURICH AND ALSO HAD SBA'S TO CONSIDER. HE HOPED FACTS OF MATTER COULD BE SORTED OUT BEFORE ANY KIND OF NATO INITIATIVE WAS UNDERTAKEN.

4. DUTCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVED NATO SYG LUNS COULD APPROPRIATELY TAKE LEAD, IN LINE WITH HIS WATCHING BRIEF, IN URGING BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND TO COOPERATE IN RESTORING ORDER ON ISLAND. IN HIS VIEW, LUNS HAD PERHAPS BEST CHANCE OF AFFECTING GOG ATTITUDE AND HE ASSUMED MIGHT TAKE INITIATIVE WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT. HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE WELL IF NATO COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE INFORMED RESPECTIVE CAPITALS OF THEIR VIEW THAT LUNS COULD PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES ALLEGED THEY HAD NO HARD INFORMATION AND WERE RESERVED IN COMMENTING ABOUT SITUATION EXCEPT TO VENTURE OPINION UNSC WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO BECOME INVOLVED. MEMBERS OF BOTH AUSTRIAN AND SWEDISH EMBASSIES EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN REGARDING SECURITY OF THEIR UN CONTINGENTS ON ISLAND.

6. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND ADCM NOTED ABSENCE BOTH OF ANY CABINET-LEVEL GOG MINISTERS AND OF LEADING PERSONALITIES OF FORMER POLITICAL WORLD. EARLIER IN MORNING GEORGE MAVROS HAD TELEPHONED ADCM TO SAY THAT IF IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT MAKARIOS WAS DEAD, INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS HE WOULD NOT ATTEND FRENCH AFFAIR BECAUSE THERE SHOULD BE NATIONAL MOURNING FOR MAKARIOS.

7. MILITARY COMMANDER ATHENS AREA SPEAKING TO PAO DESCRIBED EVENTS IN CYPRUS AS STRICTLY INTRA-CYPRIOT AFFAIR AND ASSERTED THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT NOT INVOLVED. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION, DEATHS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS04467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740188-1050
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740750/aaaabqop.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS: FIRST DIPLOMATIC REACTIONS IN ATHENS MILITARY COMMANDS FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, NATO, (MAKARIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005